THE CHRONICLE OF KAN-UK THE KUTE

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FRANK BURNE BLACK

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The Chronicle of Kan-Uk the Kute

Being a copy of a scroll inscribed by him, what time he did travel in his Caravan throughout the land of Kan-a-Da and of Am-er-Eka in the days of the Great War, and now given to the world by its finder

Frank Burne Black

G. P. Putnam's Sons
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DEDICATION

Now a dedication is that portion of a scroll wherein the scribe doth usually demean himself and grovel in the dust; saying To So-So, whose sandals of the high heel I am unworthy to fasten. Or to He-Hi-Hum who, shall he deign to cast but the one look, and that even at the wrapping of this my miserable scroll, will thereby fill me with the delights of the Blessed. Or yet again, to Hokus-Pokus who knoweth more about the subject upon which I do write, than I could ever learn; aye though I did live until my years were as those of the Croc-O-Dile.

Yet I, even Kan-Uk the Kute, favour not these sayings.

For behold I write not up to any man as to a patron, nor down to any man as to a slave.

But do I dedicate this my chronicle to my brothers; yea to those sons of Kan-a-Da and of Am-er-Eka who love life; and are fond of mirth. In whose veins is red blood and not water; and who have got them up like men, and journeyed forth, and after many days have arrived at that place where men do live in holes in the ground that they might thereby

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swat the Amalekites which are at this day called Huns.

Where the arrow flieth by day, also the Eero-Plane; and the trench rat, and the brown bug, biteth by night; and from which their souls ever cry out for deliverance, even for trips to Blighty.

To ye, my brothers, I dedicate this Chronicle of the things which I see of men. For ye is it inscribed; and later, when many copies shall be made from this mine own scroll, they shall be sent amongst ye, and ye shall read my words what time the candle doth burn, and the Canned-Horse shall be served out.

And after ye have read, I beseech ye do this thing:

If it be that my words find favour in your sight, pledge me, I pray ye, in that which warmeth the inner man; or failing that, in the brew of the herb of the field, even Tea.

And having done this thing, get ye up, every one of ye, and swat for me one Hun.

Thus shall it be proved that verily the Stylus shall prick even as the sword; and thereby shall the heart of the Scribe be gladdened; even the heart of

KAN-UK THE KUTE.

BOOK I

Concerning Will-Yum of the Huns and sundry matters which did occur before the war.

Also how the war did arise; and why it is good that this Chronicle should be writ.

CHAPTER I

1. To the men of Kan-a-Da and of Am-er-Eka and to the young men and the maidens. To they whose countenances are bright, and still more so to those who are of the doleful aspect, and sour, and as the grape before it reddeneth. Greetings and Peace.

2. This is the Chronicle of Kan-Uk the Kute concerning what manner of things did come to pass in the land, what time the mighty nations warred together.

3. For whereas this is a perverse and untruthful generation, behold it is wise that this Chronicle shall be written of the things which truly be; lest it shall come to pass that in after years men shall draw unto themselves their sons, and their sons' sons, and shall say:

4. Yea in those days this thing did happen; or: It is said this thing did befal; and, Some men believed this mystery came to pass; all of which shall be out of accord with the doings which did really befal; even the Untruth.

5. So that the young men might rise up and say: How now grey beard! What is this that thou tellest us? Thinkest thou, that we are like unto the flocks of the field, even the Baa-Lamb with no understanding; or likenest thou us to the Goat, even the He-Goat which is surprising thick about the skull?

6. Out upon thy tales of this great war; for we say unto thee thy words are as the ramblings of one whose brain hath become of a watery consistency; yea who is approaching the Dip-Pee; and whose holdings forth are what men do call Pif-Fle.

7. For lo: I have beholden aforetimes, that if in his youth a man by much brain sweat, and the wrapping of the head in the cooling bandage, even the Wet-Tow-El shall have handled some simple problem in such wise that he who did examine the figures did say: Go to! Get thee to the next form. Not that thou hast come anywhere near unto the right answer, but because thou hast surely done thy best, poor though it be.

8. When I say, in due course, that man doth speak unto his son in the after years, he forgetteth him that which was truly said unto him, and doth say unto his son words like unto these:

9. My son, I perceive that out of six of the problems which were put before thee, thou wast able to solve but five. Be diligent; be alert; Remember whose son thou art. Make thy talents so seen of thy teachers that they shall say: Truly we did marvel at his exceeding great cleverness; but now is this thing made simple unto us, for behold he is the son of So-and-So!

10. And yet again have I observed that if a man shall catch a fish of a surprising bigness, next day he doth say unto his friend: Lo I did put it upon the scale and found it not wanting. Nay I tell thee, it did score full two pounds and a fifth.

11. But upon the third day, he meeteth another friend, and he doth say unto him: Heareth thou of the fish which by my prowess I did bring to land? I say unto thee that it was of a weight not quite equal to the four pounds; and of a surprising fatness.

12. And again upon the fourth day, being called by one who had knowledge of him and who asked: Tell me I pray thee is this thing true which men do say, that as thou didst cast thy line into the lake upon a certain day thou didst take a mighty fish, the weight whereof was nigh on to six pounds, or was it seven?

13. He answereth and said: As thou knowest, I am a disciple of I-Zak from my youth upwards; and never before did I see such a fish. Likewise am I a true disciple of I-Zak in that I ever do belittle that which I do catch. Therefore would I say no word which would be beside the mark; but this I tell unto thee in secret; I have no faith in the balance they did bring unto me, and knowing not for a certainty the weight of that fish, no man shall hear me say that it did scale more than the six pounds thou didst first mention.

14. And having observed these things of men, Lo I say unto you that such do happen because this is a perverse and a short-minded generation in which men do forget the things as they are, and do see them afterwards in a different manner.

15. Therefore ye men of Kan-a-Da and of Am-er-Eka it is good in my sight that to avoid such evils in the days to come, there shall be made in this my day even the day of the Great War, a Chronicle of the things which have been, and also which are.

16. And of this Chronicle there shall be made many copies; and they shall be sent hither and thither and to and fro throughout

the land. Nay there shall be no abiding place which shall not have access to a copy.

17. From Vik-To-Rea in the West to all that now remaineth of Hal-ee-Faks in the East and in Win-E-Peg and Tor-on-Tum and in the cities of Kee-Bec in Kan-a-Da; and in Neark and Buf-Lo and Frees-Ko and Schkaa-Go and throughout all the land of Am-er-Eka.

18. And men shall possess this Chronicle, and shall read them in it, and shall send it to those who are still at the war, or in the far country; and shall hand it down to their sons, and their sons' sons, even with the papers which are called In-Shore-Ans.

19. And this writing shall be called The Chronicle of Kan-Uk the Kute even because I Kan-Uk shall write it.

20. And concerning the form of this Chronicle, behold it shall not be of the kind whereof men do read but for a little time, and there is heard a gurgling in the wind-pipe, and a complaining of the nostrils, and the head doth drop forward and the eyes do close.

21. For inasmuch as it is good that we should acquit us like men in all adversity, and since not one of us is responsible for the

bringing about of these doings, neither he who sitteth in the seat of the mighty even the Coun-Sil, nor he who standeth upon the floor of the Temple of Palaverment, nor he who hath little wherewithal to either stand or sit upon, save only that which Nature hath provided.

22. Therefore I Kan-Uk the Kute do write unto you and say: Let there be the sound of laughter in the land. What profiteth it ye, if your countenance be such as to cause a curdling in the blue abomination which only the dealers do call milk?

23. Look not so that men seeing ye shall say: Lo my heart goeth out in pity towards him, for well do I know his affliction and the keenness thereof, even a mother-in-law.

24. But be ye of a pleasant countenance; looking ever upon the bright side even of the things that are in this day, and in the time of this great war.

25. For remember it is written: He that hath nerve shall not have nerves. Care killeth that which hath nine lives, even a cat; but the pants of he that smileth much, shall need to be let out at the waist.

CHAPTER II

1. Upon a day there was a great meeting in Hell.

2. And Satan did summon his trusty Loo-Ten-Ants and did say: How now, go things upon the main Planet in the first group, even upon Erth?

3. And the first Loo-Ten-Ant did say: Of a truth am I just back from going up and down, and to and fro therein; and verily matters are dam quiet.

4. Thereupon Satan did say: Time was when matters were otherwise; even in the days of our beloved associate At-Tilla.

5. And the Loo-Ten-Ants with one voice replied: Thou sayest it. Oh that there could arise another like unto him.

6. So Satan did say: Hearken ye unto me. I have it in my heart to raise up another such. Nay one who shall be still greater. Him will I nourish and fatten; and in due time will I turn his hand against all mankind so that

men shall say as of old there is still the Devil to pay.

7. And the Loo-Ten-Ants did marvel together saying: Can this thing come to pass?

8. But while they spake, Satan did uncork sundry vials. And he did take of the Essence of the Ape three drops, and of the Essence of the Ass four drops, and of the Essence of the Pig a goodly number of drops which he did not trouble to count, and he did put them into a measure.

9. Then did he ask: See ye what herein have we?

10. And the Loo-Ten-Ants did say: And it please thee Majesty, it seemeth to us that thou hast there the making of a Germ-Hun.

11. Thereupon did Satan add to the measure of Essence of Serpent five drops, and did again ask: What have we here?

12. And the Loo-Ten-Ants replied: Verily thou holdest the formula for an exceeding virulent type of Germ-Hun, even the Prush-En.

13. And again Satan did take up the measure and did add unto it six drops from a vial marked Essence of Tiger, and ten drops of a red liquid styled Spirit of Nero, and did again ask, What have we herein?

14. And the Loo-Ten-Ants with one accord did shake their heads in fear, so that their horns did rattle and did reply: Verily we give it up. But whatever it be of the which thou holdest there the makings, we counsel thee loosen it not in Hell; for behold if thou shouldest do so, the confines of this place are too small to hold it; and henceforth thy name shall be no longer Chief, but Prentiss.

15. And Satan handed the measure to the first Loo-Ten-Ant and did say: Far be it from me to loosen this thing upon ye here. Get thee up. Take thou this measure to Erth, even to Yur-Rup; and spill it in some place, and where it falleth, lo it shall raise up one whose deeds shall be such that men shall never speak of that place but they shall say Dam.

16. And the Loo-Ten-Ant did as he was commanded, even to the going to Yur-Rup and to the spilling of the liquid.

17. And the place at which he spilled that liquid is known as Pots-Dam to this day.

CHAPTER III

1. Now it came to pass that in the great house of the mighty Hun, even the Palace, there was born a man child.

2. And when the news went forth in the land, there was much rejoicing. And the Queen his grandmother, even our own Vic-to-Ria whose memory is blessed amongst men did send messages asking: Is it a fine boy? And they of the Palace did reply: Yea it is a fine boy.

3. And his name was Will-Yum.

4. And he did live in the great house at Pots-Dam and did wax fat and lusty, even as it had been ordained; so that it did seem as if he was like unto the children of men.

5. But the elixir from the measure, even the measure of Satan, did do its work; and his left arm was withered. And where his heart should have been there was a stone; and where his conscience should have dwelled, there was nothing at all.

6. And behold while he was but a child, that did come to pass which did show what manner of man he was to be.

7. For the word was sent forth that the Ministers, and Princes, and Counsellors, from all parts of the kingdom should get them up upon a day and pay their respects to this their future ruler; even to the child Will-Yum.

8. And what time they looked upon the child it came to pass that one of the Counsellors did dangle before him a cunning machine so devised that to look thereon was to know the hour of the day and that without consulting the sun; and which machine could also speak two words, even Tick-Tack.

9. And behold no sooner did the child Will-Yum see this marvellous machine, and did hear its voice say Tick-Tack, than straightway did he grab it, and would not again deliver it up.

10. Seeing the which, his father and those that were with him rejoiced exceedingly, and made them merry saying: See now how he already knoweth to take advantage of Time; and also: Behold that which Will-Yum wanteth, he taketh; and that without any bones.

11. But as for the Counsellor, though he did compel his face to smile, his heart was heavy within him; seeing that he had borrowed the cunning machine for that day only, and from one Ja-Kob whose sign ever hangs over his tent even the three balls; and to him did he have to render up in lieu of the machine many shekels.

12. Also was there an occasion whereupon the boy Will-Yum was very sick; so that his mother was sore troubled: and she did summon from a far country a learned physician and scholarly.

13. But the boy Will-Yum would have none of him, and did call him evil names and that to his face. Yet did the physician mix him a certain potion and the distemper did leave him.

14. And when that physician returned to his own land they with whom he did foregather to study the distempers to which the body is subject, did question him concerning what manner of sickness it was which had laid hold of the boy Will-Yum.

15. To which the wise man replied: Lo he hath three mighty swellings. He hath a swelling of the throat even the Ton-Sils, and that I can cure. He hath also a swelling

of the glands, but as ye know that is to me but a little thing.

16. But he hath also, and this last is the greatest, a mighty swelling of the head; and that neither I nor any other man shall ever cure.

17. And it was so.

CHAPTER IV

1. Now in the fulness of time the father of Will-Yum did die; and Will-Yum was made King in the land.

2. And he called together his captains and his governors and his armies and did make unto them a great speech saying:

3. Behold now this day I even Will-Yum am put over ye; this day and for ever. Know ye henceforth that there be but two Rulers under heaven Me and God; and as I am a man of no peradventure, of the two of us, I counsel ye to put your trust in me.

4. From this day also, there is but one law; which is my law; even as I shall lay it down to ye. There is but one Sun and I am It.

5. From this day, those things are, which I do say; and likewise a thing is not so, if I do say it is not. Bow ye down therefore and worship me as I do deserve.

6. Whereat some of the rulers who did

hear him, did afterwards gather together in secret and did wonder at his words saying: Verily is he a marvel; and for humility, where shall we find his like? Others did say He hath a Devil even the Devil called of men Swel-Ded.

7. But nevertheless the people, and the rulers, and the captains, did obey his word lest evil should befal them.

8. So that Will-Yum did put his yoke upon them and did sit their shoulders to his full bent; making it a law that all that was done of the people should be by order; and nothing should be done otherwise that was done, and not one thing unless he should permit it.

9. Inasmuch that if a certain man did dwell upon the north side of the way, and did desire to take him a tent on the south side thereof, he could not move him, nor his goods, nor his chattels, without first getting him up to the authorities even the Per-Leece and saying: Grant me I pray ye a licence to move my tent to the other side even the south side of the way.

10. Whereupon the chief man, and he who had authority would say: Verily thou shalt move thy tent even as thou desirest; but only

if thou hast wit enough to solve me this wise saying; for knowest thou that all who do dwell upon the south side are passing wise.

11. And the saying which thou must solve is this: He only goeth across who cometh across: and in the stating thereof, the head man did wink the other eye.

12. And lo a paradox did arise; for those only went across who were able to come across. And some came across who were not afterwards allowed to go across; the reason thereof being that they did not come across with a sufficiency which was sufficient.

13. For the head man of the Per-Leece was mighty of stature; and his palm was of an exceeding bigness. Also the pocket of his tunic was deep.

CHAPTER V

1. Now when Will-Yum saw that the people were willing to carry his yoke, his gall increased mightily; and no longer would last year's hat go nigh his head.

2. And he did hold counsel with himself in secret saying: Now behold do all men regard me as a mighty man of valour; for I am known to the uttermost corners of the earth as the one and only Mailed Fist.

3. Yet methinks that some men in their hearts do say: Lo he is but a Fist. A man who prateth of shining armour. As to his brain it is no more than the brain of him who doth belabour the squad which is called Awk-Wad even the Drill Sar-Gent.

4. And so thinking in his heart, Will-Yum did make a covenant with himself saying: Now will I give me to the great things of life; even to Kul-Tur, and to the making of great pictures, and of pleasing sounds, and of great words which are as music to the ear of man.

5. So he got him many colours and did paint him a picture and did place it up where it could be seen of men; and he called together those who were greatest in the land at the bespattering of the canvas and the mixing of the paints.

6. And he said unto them: Look ye: and do your hearts good at the sight. Far be it from me to give an opinion of that which mine own hands have wrought; but as wise men, valuing your lives and your positions within these my realms, tell me truly and as ye think, can ye do anything which shall have the same merit?

7. And he who was greatest in all the land at the making of the picture did look upon the work which Will-Yum had perpetrated and did draw in his breath tight, and did say: All Highest. I painted when I was young, and now that I am old is my name known throughout the land; and this I say of this thy picture: Verily it taketh the breath. Never before did I see anything like unto it. Assurest thou me that thou didst this alone, and that without help?

8. And Will-Yum did smile a great smile, and say: Thou hast said it. None other hand but mine did touch the canvas. Now from

thy words do I know that thou art in truth the greatest critic in all the land. Take now this Order even the Order of the Lym-Brush.

9. And he who was the second greatest at the art did come forward and did take but the one look at the picture which Will-Yum had set up, when the tears did start to run from his eyes, and he did say:

10. Oh Emperor. This thing that thou hast done doth overcome me wholly. Ask me not to make a great saying of words; for in the presence of this thy work, my feelings, unable to get them out by any other way, do gush out at mine eyes; and only because they do thus escape me, am I saved from a great evil even the evil of sudden death.

11. This will I say however, that never before have mine eyes looked upon a painting which did create within me the same impression.

12. And seeing his tears, Will-Yum did call for his nose cloth, and did sob with a great sob; saying: What praise is like unto the praise of the tear? By these same tears do I know thee to be a great man of knowledge; but praise me not too highly; for I do these great things which ye do only after years of

training, with an ease unspeakable; but only by the help of God.

13. Yea, said the great man of Art, Now doth thou speak that which is of the very essence of truth; and will I say that the very words which did arise to my lips when mine eyes did first fall upon this thy work, were: God help me.

14. And Will-Yum said unto him: Now do I know thee also for a great man and worthy. Take thou this Order even the Order of the Chinese White.

15. And he who was the third greatest at the Art did now draw nigh and did look upon the picture.

16. Then did he open his lips saying: All Hail Highest Emperor. Great indeed is this thy work. Nay I know not which giveth to me the greatest delight, Whether it be to look upon the mighty rock which thou hast depicted upon the left, or to feast mine eyes upon the glorious ocean which thou hast painted there upon the right.

17. But behold no sooner had he uttered these words, than Will-Yum did wax exceeding wrath; and did cry out with a loud voice so that all who heard him did tremble:

18. Dolt and Dunderhead that thou art.

Since how long hast thou been stricken with blindness? That which thou callest a mighty rock, as any man but thee can see, is myself Will-Yum upon mine horse; and as for thy prating about an ocean, art thou in thy dotage that thou knowest not the difference between an ocean, and a stretch of meadow such as I have there painted?

19. Get thee from my presence; and from this day shalt thy name be no more known amongst those who do use the brush.

20. And it was so.

21. Now it came to pass that the other two great men who had been called to give judgment upon the picture, did afterwards foregather in a foreign city; and he who was the greater did say unto the other:

22. Tell me I pray thee, what meant thou when thou didst say that the abomination did create within thee The Impression?

23. And he replied: Lo, I did mean the impression that it was intended for a picture. But tell me what thou didst mean when thou didst say that never before had thou seen anything like unto it?

24. And he replied: Verily I meant that which I did say: Never had I seen its like. Also I pray heaven I may never again do so.

25. And the two great men at the Art did put them each his tongue into his cheek; and they did drink their lager.

26. As for Will-Yum he did turn his hand to other things; today making the Mu-Zik and tomorrow the Po-e-Try and calling upon the learned men to express wonderment thereat; or otherwise to be grievously beswatted.

27. So that most men who were wise and not only learned, did look at his works, and to his face did express great wonderment. After which they quickly got them out and took the air.

CHAPTER VI

1. Now the father of Will-Yum had two wise men to whose words he did ever pay heed.

2. One of these was By-His-Mark so called because no treaty might be made with any nation, nor no order of the King be given out without his consent.

3. The other wise man was named Molk and he was a great man of war, and cunning; for he had spent his days in the solving of the mighty mystery how two warriors might be so placed that they might work the destruction of four.

4. But when Will-Yum was come to the throne, he did find these Counsellors irksome.

5. By-His-Mark had upon a day seen the claws of a mighty Bear and did know that they can scratch with a mighty and a fierce scratchiness.

6. When therefore Will-Yum did write upon his slate: The Bear hath no claws,

By-His-Mark did rub out the word No and thereat Will-Yum was wrath.

7. And Molk did say: The most dangerous part of the fire tube, even the Kan-Non is the mouth thereof; but to this Will-Yum replied:

8. Thou liest; for every man doth know that the powder of the magician is put in at the other end; therefore is that end the most dangerous.

9. So Will-Yum dismissed these wise men saying: Out with ye and away. Verily were ye useful to lighten the footpath of he who did come before me; but when I the Sun am up, there is no need for the candles to be kept burning.

10. Now when these wise men were gone, there arose a multitude of false prophets and soothsayers who did speak and write only that which they knew would sound sweet in the ears of Will-Yum.

11. And these men were of the generation of Honken and Mum-Sen and Zy-Bell and of one whose name no man can utter save only when he shall have a cold in the head; for his name is like unto a sneeze; and behold he it was who was the greatest of all sneezes.

12. And this was the burden of their

soothsayings; even the words which Will-Yum did drink in.

13. Behold now, said they, Art thou not Will-Yum? And he said Yaw.

14. And is there any like unto thee for wisdom and learning, and the Arts of Po-e-Try and Painting, and for Kul-Tur?

15. And Will-Yum replied: Ye say there is not, and verily will I deal hardly with any who shall contradict ye.

16. And they did ask: Is it not true that God did know well of thy greatness and did because thereof give thee but the one arm, knowing well that with the one arm couldst thou do all that other men do with the two?

17. And Will-Yum replied: Far be it from me to boast; for what I do, I do all by the glory of God; but this much will I say that God hath in me a wonderful shining advertisement.

18. And again they said: Art thou not a man of a hard composition, and one never before heard of, even of blood and iron?

19. And he said: I am; Also a mailed Fist and, do not forget it, Shining armour.

20. Yea, they replied, and is not thy breast filled with such things as Will-to-

Power, and thy fingers with Itch-to-Grab, and thy pockets with Wish-for-More?

21. And once again Will-Yum said: Yaw. Yaw.

22. Then, said they, Look thou abroad. Behold the land of the Huns, which thou rulest over, is but a little spot upon the earth. Seest thou not Am-er-Eka, and Kan-a-Da and Aus-Ter-Allia? Of a truth every year what time we do get out for thee the big figures, even the number of men thou dost have within thy realms, we do find that many have gotten them to these places; and not only so, but do they send epistles to those who stay behind, saying:

23. Come ye over here; for here is much gold. Much sausage also is here, and Lager, and the Drill Sar-Gent, behold he is unknown in the land.

24. And Will-Yum said: Is it so? And Hum. Likewise Ho-Ho.

25. And they continued saying: Behold also this Bri-Ton; how she vaunteth herself saying: Lo the Sun doth never set upon our lands; and of the whole Earth do we own a fifth part.

26. Peradventure the men of these other lands may even forget that thou Will-Yum

art high above them, aye even may they forget thy very name.

27. So that it may come to pass that one shall say unto another: Rememberest thou ever to have heard amongst the rulers of the world of one Will-Yum? And he of whom it is asked will reply: Yea have I. He was called Will-Yum the Corn-Curer.

28. Thereupon he who first spoke shall say: I mean me not *that* Will-Yum for truly he is well known; but of another Will-Yum who ever boasted that he had a club foot; or was it a Mailed Fist?

29. And he of whom it was asked, shall shake his head, and thinking lightly of the matter shall reply: Verily there aint no such animal.

30. Now as Will-Yum did hearken unto this, and did think that in any land his name might be forgotten, and that his Mailed Fist might even be made as unto a joke, he did wax exceeding wrath and did say:

31. Away with ye, every man unto his place and I will give thought to these things and will consider me what shall be done. Nevertheless the words did sink into him; and after many days he did make a plan saying within him:

32. I am the light of the world. Evil be to me if I do not lighten the dark nations. Yea will I bring it to pass that my Kul-Tur shall be taken to all corners of the earth: also will I possess them.

33. Great is my Kul-Tur as all who have Hunnish eyes can see; and peradventure if there be any stiff-necked race which will not see its greatness, them will I fall upon in my mercy, and destroy them ere their blindness do trouble them too sorely.

34. And as for those nations who shall be lukewarm about this my Kul-Tur, as a man who is smitten between the eyes even upon the Bo-Ko doth see many stars, so those I do hit with my mailed fist shall quickly see daylight.

35. I Will-Yum do say it.

CHAPTER VII

1. Now when Will-Yum had given much thought to these things, he did call unto him again his rulers, and his counsellors, and his captains, and did say unto them:

2. Great am I as ye know; and yet greater than ye think; but behold today am I greater than I ever was before; for God has given unto me a great work.

3. Since the world did begin lo it was his will that Kul-Tur should reign in all parts of the earth; but hitherto he has fallen short of bringing about his desire.

4. But behold now I have arisen, even I Will-Yum, and in partnership with God I will see that this thing is properly carried through. Prepare ye therefore, and in manner as I do say.

5. Ye shall send out your professors to Am-er-Eka, and to Kan-a-Da and to the land of Aus-Ter-Allia, and to Bri-Ton and to all the nations which shall be out of stock in that line of goods.

6. By day shall your professors do their professing; but by night shall they spy out the land.

7. Ye shall send out also bands even with the Mu-Zik. By day shall they sound the timbrel and play upon the instruments of brass. Yea also shall they give instruction. With their left hand shall they write the signs of Mu-Zik; but with their right hand shall they make plans of the strong places.

8. Ye shall send out also your young men, they of the black coats and the shirt garment which is as snow, and who carry ever upon the arm the sign of their calling, even the Nap-Kin.

9. And these shall get them to the places where the knowing ones, and they who are in authority do eat.

10. What time they do let fall the dishes and slop the soup, they shall open their ears; and that which they hear, shall they note down even upon the stiffness of linen called Kuff; and they shall bring it away.

11. And like the Israelites of old with the Egyptians, they shall despoil the men of Amer-Eka and of Kan-a-Da and of Bri-Ton and of all the nations to whom they are sent; for while with the ear shall they rob them of their

secrets, with the hand shall they despoil them of the shekel which is called Tip.

12. And let also your young women go out unto the households and learn of that which is done in the land, even the Se-Kret, and write it unto us.

13. And to the men in high places ye shall send the maidens whose cheeks are fair, and who worship the essence Per-ox-Ide that they shall be much desired of men, even as Samson did desire Delilah; and they shall thereby gather up the things we would know and shall send them.

14. So that when the time is ripe shall we know where to strike.

15. And to the makers of weapons of warfare did he say: Get ye busy. And to the builders of vessels of war he said: Let not your labour cease with the going down of the Sun but work ye even in the two shifts.

16. But hear me in this, That in all these things ye act with secrecy; and if any man should ask ye how, and why, ye do work thus hard, then shall ye say: These things do we to preserve the quiet which we love: even Peace.

17. And to the soldiers and the captains of war, Will-Yum did say: Ye are the salt of

the earth; and with ye will I salt the earth, and that good and thorough when the time cometh; but it is not yet.

18. But behold a sign will I give unto ye that ye may know my purpose, and it is in these words which being interpreted do mean World Power or Bust; And ye must not Bust.

19. And what time ye do gather together at meat, ye shall fill up the stein, and ye shall drink saying: To the Day.

20. And behold all these things did come to pass even as he had said; and the hammer was heard in the land throughout many years.

CHAPTER VIII

1. Now behold at last the time was ripe, and Will-Yum and his hosts were ready to fall upon the world.

2. But lo men were living at peace, and the flocks were in the field, and there was quiet in the land of Yur-Rup.

3. And Will-Yum did look upon his hosts and upon his ships and they were all ready for the fight and everything was prepared but there was none who did desire to fight.

4. And as a man who hath filled up the pipe and findeth that he hath no match wherewith to light it is fretted, or as he who hath prepared the vessel and hath ready the sweet flavouring, and the spoon, but then doth discover that the bottle is empty is thereby driven to eloquence,

5. So Will-Yum, looking upon his hosts ready to give battle and seeing that none did desire to have war, was peeved with an exceeding great peev.

6. And he did turn upon his counsellors and did say: What thing is this that I see? I, even I, Will-Yum have provided the hosts. Would ye that I provide the enemy upon which to turn them loose also? Get ye busy. Start something.

7. And they said unto him: Verily will we do our best; but there seemeth nothing on the cards save only a small matter of disagreement in a far country even in Bos-Nia whereby a Prince hath come by his end.

8. And Will-Yum replied: What more would ye? Are we not a peace-loving people who do desire nothing but quietness, and good-will, and Kul-Tur? Have we no bowels of compassion that we shall stand by and see a Prince done to death. Out upon ye. Get busy. See to it.

9. And the counsellors and the rulers did get busy, and did make up and dispatch to the nations certain stinging epistles, and did hold back others of a smoothing nature.

10. And behold there was red war.

11. Now when this thing was told unto Will-Yum, he did feign to put on a countenance of great sadness; but in his heart was he glad; and did say: Verily this is The Day.

12. Then did he ask: What day of the

month is this? And they replied: It is the fourth.

13. And he said: Behold by such and such a day will I and my captains eat in the tents at Par-Ee; and by such and such a day I will possess the treasures of the city of the Burg even of St. Peter. After that will I cross the sea to the land of Bri-Ton and will rest my feet upon the mantelpiece which is within the Palace called Buck, in the city of Lon-Don; which city we will despoil.

14. And when all these things shall have been brought to pass, I and my captains, and my men at arms, will take ship and we will cross the great sea and will subdue the land of Am-er-Eka; and as for Kan-a-Da it is but one bite.

15. But at this they said unto him: Tarry a little while Oh Great One, and cast thine eyes upon the writing, even the Map. For here seest thou the borders of the land of the Hun, and yonder behold the borders of the land of the Franks;

16. Yet between the land of the Hun and the land of the Franks seest thou there lies the land of the Bel-Gees, and of a truth thou hast sworn to honour and to protect that land and it is so written.

17. And Will-Yum said: Tush Tush; and also Piff-Bah; this is but small broth. See ye All-Wig.

18. So they came to the Chance-Seller even All-Wig and did put it to him. And he did say: Away with this thing and let it not irk ye. Are ye not men of honour in your country, and see ye not that now are we in the hands of a devil, even the devil called Ness-ess-Ety? Would ye balk because of the scratching of a stylus and a scrap of parchment?

19. And so the armies were turned loose upon the Bel-Gees who had done no wrong; but because only that their land did provide a short cut from the land of the Huns into the land of the Franks.

20. And there was mourning and lamentation throughout the land because of the things which were done.

CHAPTER IX

1. And again it came to pass that there was a great meeting in Hell.

2. And as upon a past day Satan did ask: How goes it in the main planet of the first group even upon Erth?

3. And Satan's first Loo-Ten-Ant did reply: Of a truth am I just back from going up and down, and to and fro, in the land, and in Yur-Rup and in the land of the Bel-Gees.

4. At the which Satan did ask: Seest thou there things happening after our own heart?

5. And the Loo-Ten-Ant did wiggle his tail and cause the hoofs of his feet to crack, and his horns did curl up with delight and he said:

6. Verily I say unto thee, from the things I there beheld did I learn many pointers; and I did see that in wickedness upon which I had prided myself, I am but a babe and a suckling.

7. For behold compared with what happeneth in the land of the Bel-Gees the doings

of this place even Hell, are as the calm of a meeting of mothers; or as a gathering given over to men's prayers.

8. And hearing this, Satan did smile and say: Yea of a truth this Will-Yum at whose hands these things are brought to pass, is horn of my horn, and hoof of my hoof.

9. And behold, this saying did go forth even as a thought; and the wind did take it, and it was carried unto Erth, and men did gather it.

10. And having gathered it, they did say Amen.

11. Then did they gird their loins and prepare them, and did they take counsel how best they might slay this raging beast, and all his captains and his hosts.

BOOK II

Concerning some of the things which did occur after the Great War had started: and even while it did continue.

CHAPTER X

1. Now behold no sooner was this war well started, than it was seen of men that a great change had come over the ways and methods of warfare from what was the condition of old.

2. For aforetime it was the custom that each warrior should go up against a warrior of the enemy, and should say, each in divers ways but to the same end:

3. How now thou son of a Curmudgeon, Have I caught thee in the way? Lift up thy shield, I counsel thee, and guard thyself well; for I have a mind to cleave thy skull. Also to perforate thy carcase, and to let the light of heaven look in upon thy vitals; so that ere the sun shall set, thou shalt assuredly be a heap of carrion.

4. To the which, the warrior so addressed would reply: Tell me I pray thee, Hath thy mother knowledge that thou art absent from the nursery? Verily thou doth remind me sorely of those effigies which men are wont to

set up what time the grain is planted, to affright the birds of the air. Yet do I perceive they have permitted thee to carry a sword and also a buckler. Therefore will I honour thee by permitting thee to die by the hand of a warrior; even by my hand.

5. And spoke thou of carrion? Know then, thou son of a Skipjack that I do purpose to reduce thee to such shreds that the birds of the air, even the vultures shall look in vain for thee; and shall cry one to another: Lo do I smell something hereabouts, but verily the fragments thereof are too small for sight.

6. And so saying, and with other similar words of kindly encouragement the one to the other, they did fall to; and the better man did win.

7. But behold now in these days men did dig them holes in the ground and did get therein; And they did take a cunning case even the shell, and did fill it with the metals of the earth and put it into a tube; taking care to place beneath it certain substances which the magicians had prepared in secret.

8. And when the time was ripe, and he of the long sight had looked abroad, there was a great and mighty noise, and the shell and all that was within did fly off into the air.

9. And it did fly many leagues to where was the enemy; making sundry spiteful remarks what time it did fly. And when it did alight amongst him there followed its chief remark.

10. After which they gathered up of the enemy more than seven basketsfull.

11. And behold the enemy did this thing likewise; so that of these shells were many used, and more were called for. And the men of the land of Bri-Ton and the men of the Franks could not make them as fast as they were hurled across.

12. So they did send messengers to the men of Am-er-Eka and of Kan-a-Da and of Aus-Ter-Allia saying: Make ye for us these shells, and that with all speed; and verily will we pay ye that which ye shall ask for them.

13. And because there were not enough of the young men to do this thing then did the maidens put upon them certain male garments even the Trow-Sers and did get them to the great Temples wherein these things were devised, and they did labour:

14. Thereby they gained so many shekels that their hearts were filled with rejoicing; and they said unto their sisters:

15. Of a truth do ye labour from the ris-

ing of the Sun until darkness doth fall upon the earth, and do make the beds, and blow off some of the dust, and break the dishes, and wash the faces, even the sticky faces of the young ones, but what doth it avail ye?

16. Lo at the change of the moon ye have gained for yourselves no more shekels than we do hold after only seven days. Come ye with us.

17. And many did so, Yea in such numbers went they up, that the women of the big houses did complain saying: Time was when there was mistress and there was maid; but behold now the former is become as the latter and there is none to be got who will help.

18. But the maidens hearkened not unto their cry, but did continue in the way even to the making of many shekels.

19. So that the bazaars of Ee-Ton and Sim-Son in Kan-a-Da, and of May-See and Wanna and Feeld in Am-er-Eka were filled with a mighty crowd; and that daily.

20. And the fine raiment which was beholden upon the highway and in the places where men do congregate, was such that men did marvel greatly. Of the which more shall I write anon.

CHAPTER XI

1. And when the young men and the maidens saw that by the making of the shell they could get much gold, they did look them abroad to see what manner of thing they could take unto themselves; for to hold the shekels in the pocket did cause them much unrest.

2. And some did buy them the harp which singeth when struck upon the teeth, even the Pee-Anner; and others did buy them ornaments of gold and of silver, and others did take unto themselves the carriage which goeth without steed.

3. And in front of this carriage what time it goeth, is nothing; but behind it is a sound of Puff-Puff, and a cloud, and a mighty stink.

4. But behold most of them did take unto their tents those boxes, the mystery of which is beyond words.

5. For lo are they filled with canned

echoes; and it is said that such is the greatness of their magic, that even by the turning of the handle can one obtain whatever echo shall be desired.

6. The voices thereof are varied even as the sounds of the waves of the sea.

7. And to hear upon a day one of these magic boxes is good. To hear two, is not beyond the endurance of mankind; but verily if three shall be heard at the one time, it giveth rise to much eloquence.

8. Now since many did take unto their tents these boxes, it did become a sore trial to the spirits of those who had no such possession, but whose tents did happen to be pitched between the tents of those who were so blessed.

9. So it is told of a certain man that upon a day he did get him to his couch to take his rest. For it was the Sabbath and he had laboured hard for six days.

10. And behold he was about to enter into the delights of slumber, even the Nap, when lo in the tent nigh unto him, they did take off the lid from one of those boxes; and the canned echo which did dwell therein, did get him out and did spread himself over the whole neighbourhood, crying out loudly

of one who did wear a sweet tulip, and another who did besport a red, red rose.

11. And the man who was weary saw not the delight of the sweet tulip; nay nor yet of the red, red rose; but he did turn him on his side and did say Dam.

12. And when in due time this echo had lost itself, and there reigned again a quietness, he did once more turn himself and compose himself for sleep.

13. But behold, in the tent across the way, they did uncork another echo; and it did spread itself abroad boasting of the delights of Roamin at the end of day and that in the Gloamin.

14. At the which he upon the couch did again turn himself and did utter the unlawful word.

15. And this echo also did fail at last, and it was no more.

16. At the which he upon the couch rejoiced much, and did say: Of a truth my sleep will be the sweeter in that I have been put off from it these two times. And he turned him, and did close down the lids, and did take the deep breath.

17. But behold, he had but done so the few occasions than in a third tent nigh at

hand, they did open another magic box, and the voice did walk out therefrom and strut around. And he was of a great raucousness and his great and only desire, as he did express it, was that they should Put him amongst the Girls.

18. And the man upon the couch did straightway get him up; and his countenance was dark; and as to his words there is no type which can express them, and he did bang upon the teeth of the harp with all his might; even on the Pee-Anner.

19. And it is said that in those days many such things did come to pass so that those whose tents were nigh unto each other and who had aforetime lived in harmony the one with the other, did begin to look coldly what time they did pass in the way.

CHAPTER XII

1. Now while the war was being waged in Yur-Rup the fleet of Bri-Ton and of the Franks did sail the seas eager to do battle.

2. But as a cur which knoweth that it is due for a beating, doth betake itself to the darkest corner of its kennel, and will not come out even though he who holdeth the whip shall say: Guddog,

3. So the men who did manage the ships of Will-Yum did hide themselves behind a mighty fortress and did slip out only when there were none around to see them.

4. What time they did shoot down a few tents, and tabernacles, on the coast of the land of Bri-Ton and did thereby kill many young children; after which they flew them back to their hiding place and from the darkness thereof did crow lustily of their amazing bravery.

5. And behold since they were afraid to venture out upon the seas they did make

unto them mighty monsters which did swim beneath the waters; even like Behemoth, save only that they were the more mighty.

6. And they had each of them an eye in the middle of his back and it could be put forth above the waters to spy around, and could it also be drawn in, if so be that there were any in sight capable of giving battle.

7. But lo if there came along a ship which was not built for war, but for peace, and the carrying of merchandise, then did the hearts of these Huns wax valiant; and would they cause Behemoth to sneak up with a great sneakiness.

8. And the monster would vomit a cunning pill which would strike the ship, and that ship would be no more.

9. Now the rules of true warfare did state that no ship should thus be given the pill, save only after it had been duly apprised of the medicine which was being prepared; and the men thereon should be saved.

10. But the men of Will-Yum said: What care we for any such rule; and if so be that there shall be women and children on the ship, let them see to it.

11. Yet there did come a day when upon a ship which was given the pill after this

fashion even without warning, was a man of the land of Am-er-Eka and he did perish.

12. Thereupon in the land from which he came some did lament saying: How cometh this thing? Are we, even the men of Am-er-Eka, to be pilled in this fashion by the Hun, and that without warning? Cannot our Ruler see to this thing?

13. And lo it was mentioned to the ruler of the land one Wil-Sohn and he did say: Leave it to me.

14. And he got him a scroll of the one face, known in the land as the Pose-Kaad and did write: Dear Will-Yum. I beseech thee pill not our ships without warning. Greetings and long life.

15. But many did say: Let us work and not talk, for this fight it is not ours. Likewise are we not making out of it many shekels?

16. And when the epistle was brought unto Will-Yum he did frown upon it saying: Who is this Wil-Sohn that he doth dare to write unto me?

17. Now the course of the war was by this time running not so smoothly for the Huns as had been thought aforetime. For the day was long past when by the written order, even the Sked-Yewl, should they have

been despoiling the great city of the Franks; yet were they far from it.

18. So the Counsellors did say unto Will-Yum: Well do we know this Wil-Sohn; a wordy man, and given to applying the birch to those upon whom the beard hath not yet sprouted. Aforetime was he a keeper of a school; but as a Man of war, he is even as the joke.

19. Nevertheless we beseech thee that thou reply him soothingly. Anger him not at this stage; but later then shalt thou deal with him as thou shalt desire.

20. For behold, even at this hour have we one of our trusted sons abiding in his tent even Burn-Stuff; and he will order things well for us if so be that thou shalt say nothing of a directness which shall preclude this thing.

21. So Will-Yum did write unto Wil-Sohn then and in this fashion. That they who were in charge of the sea monster did cause it to vomit the deadly pill at a ship. But the ship was not that on which was the man of Am-er-Eka but another vessel; yet because this other vessel was not to be seen, but was below the sky line called Hor-I-Zon, the pill did decide to make for the nearer vessel; and it did grieve the heart of Will-

Yum sorely; for as all men did know he was a man of infinite goodness, and even as the very milk of kindness.

22. Thus did Will-Yum write to Wil-Sohn; but to the man who had done this deed did he send a cross of iron and did say: Pill him again.

23. And upon another day, the sons of the Hun did shoot their pill at another vessel on which were the men of Am-er-Eka even the Fa-la-Baa and they perished.

24. Thereat the people again did murmur; and their ruler Wil-Sohn did send another note; only on this time did he use a longer scroll, and his words, they were of more than one syllable.

25. And lo, Will-Yum did tell his Counsellors that he had gotten another epistle and did ask: What this time shall I say to this Wil-Sohn?

26. And the Counsellors replied: Far be it from us to assume wisdom over thee, but thou might say that thy commander of the Behemoth had come unto that state which the men of Am-er-Eka do call the home of the insect even Bug-House and did cause the pill to be launched to commit him suicide.

27. But behold the pill did bounce off the

rib of Behemoth and did strike the vessel on which were the men of Am-er-Eka. Also say that we can produce the rib. And leave it to Burn-Stuff.

28. And Will-Yum did even as he was bespoken; but as for the men of Am-er-Eka when they did get this epistle they did pull their belts one notch the tighter; and did they spit out much juice; even the brown juice which is Nik-ot-Ene.

29. But those whose names were of the Hy-Fen who were sojourning in the land of Am-er-Eka but whose hearts were in the land of the Hun, these men did put them each his tongue into his cheek, and did foregather in the secret places, and did say words concerning the greatness of Will-Yum.

30. Likewise they did say of Wil-Sohn that which they would not have had proclaimed from the housetops.

31. And as the Huns did give the pill to the Fa-la-Baa so also did they unto the Cushing; and having thus gotten them the habit, they did likewise pill the Gulf-Lite and many other vessels; so that the men of Am-er-Eka were smitten hip and thigh, and were drowned in the great waters.

CHAPTER XIII

1. Now there dwelled in the land of Am-er-Eka a certain Ford who was a mighty mechanic.

2. The same it was who had called into being one of those cunning chariots which do run without any steed; before which goeth nothing at all, but behind which is a cloud, and a noise of Puff-Puff, and a mighty stink.

3. And the chariot which was made by this Ford, was it small of its kind, and as compared with the other chariots of like nature; but yet could it breathe out as loudly as any of them; and could be heard from as far off.

4. Also was it second unto none at the creating of the stink; without which no chariot is to be considered; and did it consume less of the white wine which is as water; save only as to its cost, and was it lighter upon the hoofs, which were of Rub-Ber.

5. So that men looked with favour upon this chariot and did buy them many thereof. Whereupon the other makers of chariots did wax wrath and did deride it saying:

6. Lo it is useful of men, but that only to be put into the tool box of these our make of chariot. Or again: It lacketh but the one thing; for were it but one span the shorter then could men put it into the bath of the young child to wash.

7. Some also there were, who did liken it unto the can wherein men do put the little fish even the sardine. Others did call it an Elizabeth of Tin.

8. Notwithstanding all of which, by its works was it mostly judged of men; and verily it did get there.

9. Now the creator of this chariot, even this Ford, did look upon the war with a sad countenance; for roads which are being used for battle are not convenient at the same time for the car of pleasure. Also while men do fight, they cannot buy them the steedless chariot.

10. So he did give much thought to the matter and did say: Behold these nations are so busy at the fight, and are killing themselves with so great a thoroughness,

that they have no time to give thought to the ending of the fray.

11. Therefore will I get me together a great company of those who prefer to ride in the chariot and be at peace, rather than to die them the valiant death of the warrior; and we will get us over to where the fight doth wage.

12. And will we call upon the men, even the men of both sides saying: Come ye out of these great holes wherein ye are hiding one from another. Stop ye this hurtful swatting of each other, and instead, mend ye these roads which ye have so disturbed for a long season, and ride ye at peace in the chariots which do run without steeds.

13. So behold he did engage him a great vessel, and did send out messages unto the great ones saying: Come ye with me, and we will end this strife; and that before the Feast of Christmas which is now approaching.

14. Now many of the great ones did think otherwise; some being of the mind that it would not be good that the strife should end, until Will-Yum and the whole tribe of the Hun should be smitten; for were they as an evil sore in the side of the other nations.

15. So it came to pass that when they were

invited they did send excuses saying some of them: Lo do we think that thou art a wise mechanic and a kindly; and great is thy chariot. Gladly would we go with thee upon this journey, but behold the Feast of Thanksgiving is at hand, and we have killed the fatted turkey, and have invited our friends, and we cannot go.

16. And when the day for the sailing did draw on, and the vessel did put forth, behold the party of Peace was not nearly so great as the contents of the vessel could have made possible.

17. And when the ship did come to the sea, the winds did blow upon it, and it did rock, and that sorely.

18. So that when they who were upon the ship did get together to form a plan whereby peace should the more quickly be brought about, he who was appointed to the head of the table did say: I do move. And so saying he did move; and that with haste even to the side of the vessel; and there did he sit for long and did contemplate the ocean. And because that his feelings were powerful did he groan in spirit. Also was he white about the gills.

19. So another did take his place at the

head of the table and did say: Lo I feel within me that Peace is desirable, but before this thing can come to pass, it seemeth me that many things must be brought to light.

20. And he did get no further with his admonition, but like unto him who was before him, did he get him to the side of the ship; and speedily, even as he had said it, were many things brought to light.

21. Now there was of the party a certain woman whose name did liken her unto the Rose. And like the rose she did have many thorns.

22. To those who said Yea when she said Yea, was she ever as the flower; But those who said Nay when she said Yea, verily they did feel the thorns.

23. And there arose dissension in the party even the party of Peace and the heart of the leader thereof was sad within him.

24. And when the vessel did come to the other side, Lo things were not as he could have desired; and the great ones did look coldly upon him and upon his party.

25. So that they would go unto the tent of one great one, and he would receive them with kindness and would say: Of a truth do we know of this Ford, and also have we

knowledge of the chariot which he doth make; but is he not a man of the machine? What knoweth he of the matters of the Nations?

26. At the which some of they who were of the party did say: Told we not it would be so? Thus should ye have done, even as we said.

27. And to another great one would they go, and he also would receive them with kindness, even the glad hand. And he would talk of the wonders of the land of Am-er-Eka, and of the chariot of the man Ford, and of the rain, and of the winds of heaven. Also of the galloping of the Gee-Gee what time he doth run for sport.

28. Of one thing only would he not talk; and lo that thing was Peace. Nay at the very mention thereof did he become as the oyster.

29. And the women of the Peace Party did contend for this thing, and some did strive for another thing, and still a third band did demand something different to either of the others.

30. And the squirrels which they had taken with them did chatter.

31. And behold the chattering of the

squirrels did prove as effective in bringing about the peace, as the chattering of the mortals.

32. For verily it was a fizzle.

33. Yet did men say of this Ford: He hath done his best; And it was so: yet afterwards did this same Ford do still better.

34. For when, in the fulness of time, the men of Am-er-Eka did come into the fray, as shall be told in this Chronicle, he did help to make the weapons of warfare which alone could let understanding into the skull of the Hun.

CHAPTER XIV

1. Now about this time the men of Am-er-Eka did consider whether or no they should change their ruler; for it was the custom with them that one man should not rule over them for ever, but that a change was as good almost as a rest.

2. And there were some who did ask: Of what good is this Wil-Sohn? Do not the Huns and their rulers snap their fingers at him, and as for his epistles they are a vain thing.

3. Can we not have Ted-Dee to rule over us, for lo he is a man after our own hearts; and were he to rule over us at this time, then would the hide of Will-Yum be speedily at the tannery.

4. For behold this Ted-Dee was a mighty man of action; beneath whose sandals little grass did ever grow. Neither cared he for man, nor yet for beast. He it was who did ride the steed what time it did buck; and

who did get him to the far country to slay the lion, and the tiger, and the Ele-Fant.

5. Of the Rhino-Serous also was he not afraid nor of anything that was Rhino, even though the hide of the beast should be of a great toughness and hard to penetrate.

6. The same was he who when they did point out unto him that to go up against the Rhino-Serous was a thing full of danger, and not to be attempted save by him whose papers of the In-Shore-Ans were in order, and that because of the exceeding great thickness of the hide of the beast, did say:

7. Lo I do care for it not at all. His thickness of skin is to me a little thing; for have I not from my youth upwards had to deal with the Poli-Tish-Un even the Ward Boss?

8. And others were there who did say: Behold there is one Hews, a good man and valiant, and almost as good at the Note as Wil-Sohn.

9. Still others did say: Let him alone. This Wil-Sohn, we tell ye, cannot be bettered. For behold who is there in the land who can use as many words of a surprising bigness aye and can speak them too? Moreover hath he not kept us safely out of this bloody battle? Also are we not waxing fat

out of those things which they who do fight, do buy from us, and pay for, and straightway do go out and send up in smoke, and call for more?

10. Therefore let us smack our lips, and give unto this Wil-sohn our mark; or peradventure two marks if so it can be arranged, and so shall he be ruler over us again and until the end of this war. Then, if ye like it, can ye make a change.

11. So the day did come upon which all men were to make their mark as to which ruler they would have; and the ruler for whom most marks were made, he it was who was given to live at the House which is washed White.

12. And when the marks were counted it was said by some, that Hews was to be the ruler; but men did find more bundles of marks, and it did take them many days to count them.

13. Then was it found that Wil-Sohn was again the chosen of the people; and he did put on the vest which is of stars, and the pants which are of stripes, yea many stripes for the men of Am-er-Eka do speak their minds boldly, and anon do wipe off their ruler and that with the bullet.

14. And when Wil-Sohn was again appointed of the people, many came to fall down before him; and amongst them also came one Burn-Stuff of the camp of the Huns saying: Wise art thou above all the men of Am-er-Eka and at the Note there is none like unto thee.

15. But in secret did he write an epistle unto his master Will-Yum and did send it, saying therein:

16. Verily these men of Am-er-Eka are like unto the ass. At the mouth do they bray; but at the brain is there degeneration by fatness; and as for our Kul-Tur it is not there.

17. Much did I fear that they would appoint unto themselves this Hews; and my soul did sink within me, when I did hear the name of Ted-Dee; but now rejoice ye greatly for Wil-Sohn is elected, and will ye be troubled with naught save only Notes.

18. The ass may bray, but I say unto ye that ye may twist his tail even as it doth seem needful; and that without fear.

CHAPTER XV

1. Now when Will-Yum and the captains of the Huns did see that Wil-Sohn was again appointed and did get the epistle of Burn-Stuff, they rejoiced exceedingly and did make a great feast, and did laugh with unseemly laughter and did mock saying:

2. Yah shall we now have many Notes, and of a great bigness.

3. And Will-Yum said unto Hin-Dee: I see that thou lookest pale about the gills at this the tidings, but be not cast down; for the notes do come first unto me. Take some lager.

4. And Hin-Dee did say unto Tur-pen-Tines: Of a truth will this Wil-Sohn make short work of thy Behemoth if so be that he can drop upon it but one of his notes. Nevertheless be of good cheer. Have some Liver-Vort.

5. And Tur-pen-Tines did say unto Zepp-Ellen: Tell me the answer to this riddle; In

what like do the epistles of this Wil-Sohn resemble the engines of warfare that thou hast fathered?

6. And Zepp-Ellen replied: Because are they above the heads of men.

7. Nay, replied Tur-pen-Tines, Not so; because are they full of gas. Have some Sauer-Kraut.

8. Then together did they say: Now, as in the past, only more so, will we do as we please on the seas, and under the seas; for the men of Am-er-Eka are a craven and a gold-loving people only; and will not come in upon this fight whatsoever we may do. Yea are they as the ass; and will we twist his tail at our pleasure.

9. And behold this they said because their eyes were darkened and because they knew not Wil-Sohn that he was a man not afraid to act, but only afraid that he should act at the time which was not ripe.

10. Now at this time there was a great vessel even the Lucy-Ten; and was it known unto all men who did go down to the sea in ships as being a fine vessel and speedy withal; no matter which way the wind it did blow.

11. And as this vessel was making it ready to sail from the Port of Neark in the

land of Am-er-Eka the man of Will-Yum did secretly send word unto his master the news thereof.

12. Also did he cause to appear a great writing that all who adventured forth upon the vessel, even the Lucy-Ten should do so at their peril.

13. And the Behemoth of the Hun did lie in wait for that vessel, and did vomit upon it the deadly pill; and it did sink; so that they who perished were many, of men, and of women, and of little children.

14. At this happening, behold the men of Am-er-Eka were sore vexed: yea was their wrath at the white heat; and the brown juice which they did spit out it was as an ocean.

15. And they cried out unto their ruler, and he did get him into a quiet place for two days and two nights; and did he search the scrolls diligently, for the mightiest words that had ever been written of men. And he did collect them and build them up, cementing them together with great pains and amazing labour, for his soul was sore within him.

16. And when he had finished his epistle, he did come out of his secret place, and the Note it was sent unto Will-Yum and did

say that he should bring forth signs of repentance, and that as a token of his sorrow should he send much gold. Also a covenant that the like event should not again happen.

17. But when Will-Yum did see the epistle, he did mock thereat saying: What next will this man write unto us? Did not my servant Burn-Stuff cause a writing to be issued that all who did go upon this vessel should do so only at their peril? If therefore they who did go upon that vessel in the teeth of that warning did come to an end by the swallowing of too much water, why should we put on the sackcloth and cover ourselves with ashes.

18. Also as for the paying of much gold, we will have none of it. Had it not been for the men of Bri-Ton who will have nothing of our Kul-Tur, this thing need not have come to pass. At that door therefore let the Note be laid.

19. As it is, So is it. Now let us pass to the next business.

20. And when Wil-Sohn got this epistle from Will-Yum he did vow that he would cease the writing of the Note, aye even that he would send that which would have the more weight.

21. So he called together his Counsellors, and did put before them his intent that the thing which had been done was full of evilness; and that no longer should the Men of Am-er-Eka be set at naught by this Will-Yum.

22. And with one accord did the counsellors agree with him that it should be so.

23. So Wil-Sohn did arise in his might, and did send the Counsellor of Will-Yum, he that was called Burn-Stuff, packing; he and his wife, and his servants, and his supply of sausages and sauer-kraut, and the garments which do go next to the skin what time the air it doth chill.

24. But only the rubber which the servants of Burn-Stuff had intended to take, was that detained. At the which Burn-Stuff would have gnashed his teeth, save only that they were of the finest enamel and for them had he given many shekels.

25. And Wil-Sohn did prove that he was a man of valour, and not afraid of Will-Yum and all his hosts; only did he act surely and with deliberation, and not in foolish haste after the manner of Huns and things.

26. And he did send a writing unto Will-Yum saying: Long have we borne with

thy evil doings, and many are the times we have called upon thee to repent; but ever didst thou harden thine heart. Now look thee to it; for we will fall upon thee, and will smite thee hip and thigh.

27. And to the men of Am-er-Eka Wil-Sohn did say: Are ye not with me in this thing that I do?

28. And they who had little gold, but many sons did say: To the last son.

29. And they who were lusty of limb, ready to go to the fight, did say: To the last breath of our nostrils.

30. And they who were rich did say: To the last dam cent.

31. And as for the others, they said them not a word; yet did they tighten their belts and did eject the brown fluid in immense quantity.

32. And verily it was stronger than words.

33. Thus did it come to pass that the men of Am-er-Eka did come into this war.

CHAPTER XVI

1. Now about this time there was in the Land of Kan-a-Da a certain Board.

2. And this meaneth not a piece of a tree but a body of men and were they given to the overlooking of those who did turn out the munitions of war even the shells, that they should not make unto themselves too many shekels.

3. And behold, he who was at the head of this Board, was a mighty man of business; and was it said of him that he did understand with a great thoroughness how to pile up the shekels one upon the other.

4. And this is a secret which all men do covet.

5. And the ruler of the land of Bri-Ton did give unto him a writing of a kind that those who did possess the same should never again be called by men Bill, nor yet Tom, nor even Har-Ree as is the manner of men one unto the other; but should he ever be called Sir.

6. At the which, many in the land did murmur saying: What want we in Kan-a-Da with these writings which do establish differences between men. For are not all men born equal?

7. But they who kept the great houses of refreshment, and the resorts for the hot season, and the bazaars, murmured not; but did say: It is good. For behold what time one of these who are thus styled shall ask for accommodation, or shall buy from us merchandise, then because he is not Tom, nor Har-Ree, nor Bill, but is Sir, will we charge him twice the price.

8. And he will pay it, and that without complaint; for it is upon the cards that no man can be styled Sir for nothing.

9. Now it came to pass, that certain men did present themselves before this great one, even before he of the Board, and did say: Knowest thou, that certain of those men who do bring forth the shell are making thereby too many shekels, and that by reason of charging a price higher than the wherewithal is worth?

10. And he did reply: If so it be, then it is an evil thing; and those profits, even those of the excess, should surely be con-

signed to the nethermost regions; even to Hell.

11. Now when some did hear of these words they did whisper saying: Is not he who did say this, one of a certain band which have engaged in trade, and do sell unto us that without which the table in the morning is wanting, even the Ba-Kon?

12. And which band also hath built great barns, and storehouses, and caverns in which is a great coldness, so that the food of man shall not perish, but shall remain safe and sweet until the day of scarcity and big prices?

13. Also have they not taken unto themselves a motto, which being interpreted doth mean: Pigs is Pigs?

14. And how comes it we ask that whereas of old we did pay for the Ba-Kon but so many shekels, now are we asked to part with double the number?

15. And behold these murmurings did spread, and in the fulness of time did come to the ears of the rulers so that no man could hush them up.

16. Thereupon the rulers did appoint certain men to form them into what was known in the land as a Commission.

17. Now a Commissioner is like unto a Judge; yet is there a difference, in that a Commissioner need not be ashamed to admit that he doth know of what goeth on in the world outside the Temple of the Law; but he that is a Judge shall admit of no such knowledge;

18. So that if one of those who do appear before him should say: It is even so and so, according to Har-Ree Law-Der; or again: Shak-his-Speare doth say this or that,

19. Then lo he that is called Commissioner might smile; but he that is a Judge, shall put upon his countenance the look called Blank and shall ask: Where is this place Har-Ree Law-Der? Or; In what Law report is the case of this Shak-his-Speare to which thou doth refer?

20. Now when this Commission had commished, even upon the doings of the Company whose motto was Pigs is Pigs, behold it was revealed that the company had made many shekels by the cunning treatment of the flesh of the hog.

21. For whereas of old men did put salt upon the flesh dry, of late did this company follow the ways of the foreigner even the Dane and did put the flesh into great pits in which was much water; even the Pik-El.

22. And the flesh did drink up this Pik-El so that what was put in two pounds, did come out more.

23. And seeing this, the leaders of that company did say unto those who did labour for them: Verily is the pig a thirsty beast; and he doth love to drink not only in his life, but also after he is dead. Yea his flesh drinketh up much Pik-El.

24. But see ye to it. Be ye not miserly in this matter. Give him enough! And behold ye shall not only Pik-El his flesh the once, which doth bring our two pounds out as more, but shall ye soak him again; giving him even the thing called Post-Kure.

25. And this shall mean many shekels in our pockets.

26. And having commanded those who did labour for them thus to soak the flesh, these men of business did say amongst themselves and in secret: Now have we soaked the Ba-Kon, behold let us soak also they who do eat it; and henceforth the price it shall be so and so.

27. And it was done even in this manner; so that the Commissioners did find that these men had made them great and marvellous profits.

28. Thereupon one of the Commissioners did ask the leader: Tell me, is it not true as men do report that thou didst upon occasion say that when profits were made of the nature called excess, they should be consigned to the nethermost regions, even to Hell?

29. And he replied: I said it.

30. Then asked another: How about these great profits which ye have made out of the flesh of the Pig even the Ba-Kon?

31. But the man of business did point out, and that quite clearly, that his saying did not apply to the profits which the men of his band did make, but only to the profits of the other fellow.

CHAPTER XVII

1. Now at this time, there sojourned in the land of Kan-a-Da and in the land of Am-er-Eka many sons of the land of Bri-Ton; and they, hearing that this war with Will-Yum and his hosts was not likely to be over in a season, and that every sword did make one more, did say: Verily will we get us up, and we will go upon the big vessel, and come unto the place where this fight it doth wax hot.

2. And this they said of themselves; and without any compulsion having been put upon them to go; for were they brave men, and their hearts were of size nine.

3. But others there were who did go thinking lightly of the matter, and saying: Gee this knocking on the head will be at an end before we do get there, yet shall we see the land of the Franks and shall disport ourselves in the city of Par-Ee wherein we have heard are damsels passing fair.

4. And again others there were who had within their tents a prickly thing which irked them sore; even a mother in law; so that there was no peace for them within their own borders.

5. And some of these did say: Verily this Will-Yum and his hosts do make things hum, yet have they nothing on this my mother in law affliction. For behold my lot.

6. If so be that I am not astir before a set hour, then do I get a sore head; and if I come not in at nightfall before the moon is above the earth's rim, then is that condition brought to pass which is known amongst the heathen as Hell-to-Pay.

7. And while they were in the mood, did they get them up and go straightway and take upon them the mantle of the warrior, and did depart from the land; passing as it were from war unto peace; whereas for most men was it otherwise.

8. And lo it is written of one of these men, that no sooner had he arrived in the land where the Hun did fight, than the sting which was in his tent was removed and that by death.

9. And one who was a friend did send a message to him in the far country, even a

message by the wire which talketh; so that it would get to him with all speed.

10. And the message did ask concerning what manner of method should be observed in the laying away of the mother in law, whether she should be buried after the manner of so many, or embalmed after the manner of the Egyptians, or whether her body should be burned after the method of the tribes of the East.

11. And with all speed that man did reply saying: Take thou no chances. Of these methods try all three.

12. Now when all those had been carried to the war who did go of their own will, or for reasons already given, there remained still a sore need for many more.

13. So the rulers of Kan-a-Da and of Am-er-Eka did issue a great writing to the effect that all the young men who were lusty, and the strong, and all they who were well nourished, should report them and should go to help subdue the mighty Hun.

14. But nevertheless was it decreed that if any should show good cause why he should not be dispatched, his words should be hearkened unto and judgment given accordingly.

15. And some did come and say: Fain would I go and fight against the Hun, only that I am the sole support of myself and fourteen others.

16. And into these cases the Tribunal did look; and if such were not the case they did say: Thou must get thee up and go and fight.

17. And if such were the case they did say also: Behold now it is better that thou should go so that the fourteen may make some shift for themselves and also may use up the shekels which are called Pat-Riotik.

18. And another did say: Behold am I eager to go to the fight, yet say ye not that he who produceth the succulent onion and who maketh two blades of corn to grow where before there was but cinders is more needed in this land than at the fight? That is the kind of man I am, even a Producer.

19. And the Tribunal did send messengers to inquire into it, and behold they did find that the young man did cultivate but a little plot yea even the Bak-Yard so they said unto him: Thou must get thee off to the fight.

20. And still another class of man did come along, the spokesman for which did say: We would go and fight, and that quite

gladly, but that are we all sorely troubled with a growth within us, even a Conscience. And this doth ever tell us that it is not right to smite our brother even though he be a Hun.

21. And the headman of the Tribunal did say: Tell us this. If it should come to pass that one of these sons of iniquity, even the Hun, should smite ye upon the right cheek what would ye do?

22. And the spokesman did reply: We would do even as is commanded; we would turn to him the left cheek also.

23. Thereupon the headman did reply: Be it as ye say then, Nevertheless shall ye be sent to the war, and when the Hun shall smite your right cheek, then will ye see that this growth within ye, even this Conscience, will be mightily subdued.

24. And when he shall smite your left cheek, then will ye see that it will be cured altogether; and ye shall swat him back again and that even more mightily than they who had no such growth in the first place.

25. And verily so it did prove.

26. And there came up another who did say: Behold now, and ye will admit that of a truth I can not be sent unto this war, for

without me would many be robbed of their delight. To they who travel by the great Caravan, am I necessary. By they who in season do travel upon the ships across the little waters am I beloved; and they who call in their friends to rejoice, do also need me sorely. Therefore I say unto ye, I cannot be spared from the country.

27. But the men of the Tribunal did ask: Who is this man, and what manner of life doth he lead that he is thus not to be spared from the land?

28. And the messengers did go forth and did enquire and did come them back with their report saying:

29. Verily is it as he doth say. Of a truth could he not be spared from the land, for behold he is the man who roasteth the Pea-Nut.

30. So this man he is with us to this day.

CHAPTER XVIII

1. About this time it did come to pass that the women who were leaders in the land did say: Verily will we set up unto ourselves a new god, of whom have we long heard, but whom have we ever held at arms' length; yea even the god called E-Kon-Omy.

2. And according to the command of this new god, what time we do get us to the bazaar to buy us the headgear we do love, then will we have none of the glorious ones which are covered with the feathers of the strange bird, and with the costly plush, such as our hearts have rejoiced in of yore, but will we take only the little ones which may be had for the few shekels and thereby much will be saved, and the words of our mankind what time the thing called Bill is presented will they be of fewer syllables.

3. So it came to pass that in the bazaars of Ee-Ton in Kan-a-Da and of Wanna and Feeld and Koo-Pah in the land of Am-er-Eka

there were sold only the little headgears; and the costly, and the rich ones, were they left behind and they did become no longer to be seen in the market place.

4. And the women did again lift up their voices and did say: Behold while great is this god E-Kon-Omy let our hearts also forget not that other god, even he who is called Kom-pen-Sa-Shon, and as we do cut down our glory at the one end of us, let us see to it that we do increase it at the other end; in the coverings of the leg and the sandals.

5. For behold men do love to look upon us what time we do put on our finery; though of a truth they look not the other way if we do take some of it off.

6. So did they get for themselves costly sandals, of the skin of the kid; which did come high above the foot parts, and the price thereof was up to twenty shekels.

7. And lo many did get them these costly sandals, notwithstanding that they held not the price thereof; but did they say unto those in the bazaar:

8. Grant ye we pray that we may be permitted to take these glorious sandals at the sight whereof are our hearts ravished,

and that for joy. And today will we pay for them the one third of their value. And in a little while will we pay another third, and again to the full value.

9. And it was so permitted; so that what time the last payment was made for those sandals, the wearer thereof was ready for another pair.

10. And certain damsels did buy also the coverings for the leg in gay colours, and in silk, for the which some do say that they paid ten pieces of silver.

11. But behold having gotten them these they did then say: Of what availeth these costly sandals and these gorgeous coverings for the legs if so be, that our other garment even the skirt, doth hide their glories from the sight?

12. So behold it shall go forth as an order amongst us, that the skirt it shall henceforth be shortened. And as to the matter of this proportion, what time we shall wear the fine sandals, but shall not wear the gay Stok-Ings then shall the skirt be shortened even to the top of the sandals.

13. But what time we are the more blessed, and do possess not only the fine sandals but also the Stok-Ings of great ravishment, then

shall we further shorten the garment called skirt.

14. And let it be to this extent, aye even this shall be the rule. That if we do give for the Stok-Ings ten shekels, then shall we so shorten the skirt, that the length of Stok-Ings to be seen of men shall be equal to nine shekels and three quarters.

15. And it was so. And the young men did not murmur.

CHAPTER XIX

1. Now it came to pass that the war did continue many days; and the food of the people in Kan-a-Da and in Am-er-Eka did become used up; so that there was a shortage of the sweetening stuff and of other good things.

2. And the rulers did appoint a man so that he should sit him in a goodly tent and should see to it that the people who did go short, should be about evenly distributed.

3. Also did he send out an edict that all who did eat in public places should not be served with the flesh of the ox nor of the pig upon certain days.

4. And of the men who did eat in public places there were more than a score.

5. But as to those who did eat not in public, but in the privacy of their own tent, these men might eat of the flesh of the ox, or the flesh of the pig, yea or of both, whenever they did so will.

6. And of these men there were more than a thousand.

7. So behold the saving of the life amongst the oxen, and amongst the swine, was not so great that these creatures did pass one of those things called Votathanks.

8. And in those days also, certain men did crush out the ears of corn, and did put the flakes into coloured contrivances with boastful writings on the outside thereof in many colours, telling how that there was nothing in the whole world which did taste so delicious.

9. And it did become a custom amongst the people that no morning did dawn but what they did eat of these flakes and did they get the habit.

10. Now behold when the time of shortage was come upon the land, some foolish worshippers of the god E-Kon-Omy did cast their eyes upon these coverings which did enclose the flakes and did say:

11. Inasmuch as the inscribing of these boastful words doth cost money, and inasmuch also as we cannot eat them, thus are we paying for something the value of which we do not get; and it is not good that this thing should be.

12. And their murmurings did reach the ears of they who were about the tent of the great one who was appointed to see to these things; so that they did cause to be issued a writing that after a certain day, no more should those flakes be put into the cases on which were the boastful writings.

13. And lo, the makers of the flakes they did get them up in wrath; and did say to him who was appointed: Art thou not appointed by the rulers to prevent, and not to cause, that which is an evil thing in this the time of scarcity, even the thing called waste?

14. Behold now if we do sell the flakes without the thing called wrapping, then by reason of their exceeding thinness, will they all crumble to a nothingness; and the grumbling thereat will be as a strong wind and that not from heaven.

15. Others there were who did mock saying: Verily will he next ordain that the milk it shall not be sold unto us save on the fork; and eggs save by the barrel.

16. And he who had control of these matters did say: Methinks there is something in what ye do say; but the order was not one of mine own, but was it issued by

some of my young men who are eager for the saving.

17. And as it looketh like unto the mistake, so shall it be remedied and the edict shall be withdrawn.

18. But see ye here, and hearken ye well unto my words; Inasmuch as the mistake is ours, then shall ye pay for its rightening; for those amongst ye who in the year do so much business so much shall ye pay. Others of ye whose affairs amount to so-and-so shall pay also accordingly. Otherwise, things shall be as they were aforetimes.

19. Now let us see to other matters; observing at all times, that in nought we do shall we interfere with that great law which is of the Medes and the Persians, and is called Supply and Dem-And.

20. And it was so; for behold the doings of a Govern-Ment are more wonderful than the doings of a man with a maid; which even the fool doth know to be utterly beyond comprehension.

CHAPTER XX

1. Now in those days men did eat of a luscious root of the ground; and they did call it Pot-ah-Toe.

2. Therein was much nourishment and it was greatly desired what time the fatted calf was despatched. Also did it go well with the thing called Sos-Age.

3. But because of the scarcity in the land was the supply thereof not great; and what supply there was, the same was held back for profit by the tillers of the soil.

4. The same are they whose cries of distress do ever rise unto heaven. For if the season shall be lean, then do they say: See ye us, miserable of all men. Here have we toiled for a season, and behold at the end thereof, beyond paying off the thing called Mor-Gage and also putting aside one, or peradventure it may be two thousand pieces of silver, have we nothing.

5. And if the season shall be a surprising

fat one, still doth their cry ascend saying: Truly the season hath been an exceeding fine one, and wonderful have been the crops; but see ye How it hath taken it out of the ground.

6. And because of the leanness of the season, and the holding back of those stocks which were gathered in, behold the Pot-ah-Toe did become costly; so that he who should have six of them at the one time, did consider whether he would exchange them for one of those chariots which do run without steed or would retain them, and be envied of his fellows.

7. And because also of this scarcity did men turn their hands to the tilling of the soil; yea even those who had aforetime known none of it.

8. For he who, behind his tent did have a green spot on the which in times past he had been wont to bounce the ball, and to smite it what time it did answer back,

9. Lo he did now plough up that green spot, and plant it; and the sound of the bouncing ball it was heard no more in the land, but instead were there groanings and strong words what time the weeds did raise their heads.

10. And behold this thing did bring about a mighty change in the manner and in the conversings of men.

11. So that he who was called Bro-Ker, and did spend his days in contemplation of certain figures which did appear upon a tape, so that he might the better consider whether he should lose the money of him called Kli-Ent now, or whether he should do so on another day,

12. This man did no longer say unto his friend, what time they journeyed together to the market place: How now: Shall I not persuade thee to take unto thyself and that for thy great good, sundry of those writings called See-Pee-Are or even a goodly parcel of Bethlehem.

13. But he did now say instead: I beseech thee come over this night and cast thine eyes upon mine onions; and verily shalt thou weep with delight.

14. And when the night had come, and he who was importuned had looked upon the succulent onion and remarked that it was good, he did lift up his voice, and say unto his friend:

15. Great indeed are thy onions; but my delight is more in the beet. Also do I look

with favour upon the cabbage what time it is green.

16. But his friend did reply: I too did once think me the same; but I counsel thee put not thy trust in the thing called cabbage; for at night when it is dark, and there be none nigh to see, there cometh out an evil creature even the Hook Worm, and behold half thy cabbages shall be wiped away.

17. And then in the morning, when it is yet barely day, and when the Hook Worm hath had his fill, he doth vanish and that without giving thanks; and after him cometh the slug.

18. And the slug doth work his will, and he too getteth him discreetly away.

19. Then behold later, when the sun is well up, cometh thou along. And thou shalt look in vain for thy cabbages; for the place thereof shall know them no more.

20. And this thing is not good for mankind; for behold the words it doth cause him to drop are too hot for the young shoots.

CHAPTER XXI

1. And behold these are but some of the things which did come to pass in the land of Kan-a-Da and of Am-er-Eka what time the nations did war together.

2. But to record all that which did occur, would be a weariness to the flesh and it would fill many scrolls.

3. Yet would I not fail to make mention of the practice which did arise amongst the women of making of much gear for the feet of they who did fight.

4. And what time this fever did come upon the women, then would they forsake their parents, and their companions, and their households, and their utensils of the Kit-Chen; yea would they forsake also their husbands, and the child; even the young child with the sticky chin, and the one tooth, and the bottle; and would they cleave unto the Nit-Ting Bee.

5. And the footgear which they did

make, it was of value as half a shekel; but the bag in which it was to be carried to and fro what time it was being spun, that bag did cost ten shekels.

6. And as for the mighty bundles of this footgear which were made, lo some of them did reach as far as the place of battle; but others of them did vanish; and whereunto they went, is to this day as a mystery.

7. Also would I make mention of the law which was made, whereby men could no longer foregather in the wine tents; and the wine it was put away.

8. And many did say: It is of a truth a good thing that wine should be put away, and verily in my time, have I ever tried to put away my share and that with a good will; but now, Woe is me; for I can do so no more, save only when I do have an indisposition and then it is but a little drop.

9. Yea even a minute portion, and what is it: for as the poet hath long written: One swallow cannot quench a mighty thirst.

10. Therefore many did have more frequent indisposition than had been their wont in times past; and were the doctors looked upon with favour.

11. Also would I make mention of how

the cost of all things did go up amazingly; and the war it was blamed for strange things.

12. So that those who did supply the people with milk, they did say: Behold now, as the cows do look abroad what time they do chew the cud in the meadow, and do see such violent ploughing up and tilling of the soil as now is, their souls are sore within them as to what shall befall the grass; and this worrying doth cause them to yield less of the sweet juice.

13. Therefore the price of it, it is Up.

14. And they who did sell fuel for the flames did say: This season hath Nature bestowed the ice upon us with such a bountiful hand, and in such great quantity, that there is a mighty coldness; and of the fuel is so much needed that the price of it, it also is Up.

15. But behold also a mystery: for when the time did come that men did need to buy them the ice which Nature had so plentifully yielded, Lo the price of that was Up also.

16. And because of the lack of cloth wherewith to make garments it was ordered that the pockets on the garments of men which were of the kind called Patch, should no longer be permitted.

17. Yet as to the Patch on the posterior parts, it was held lawful.

18. Also at this time was the demon called Pro-Hibi-Shon turned loose in the land to the right hand and to the left; and did he put his mark upon this, and upon that.

19. Yet strange were the results thereof. For as to coal which was not marked Pro-Hibit, nobody had it. Yet of Whis-Kee which was *Taboo* everybody had some.

20. These, and many other strange and wonderful things, did come to pass in the lands.

21. But behold now the sun it is in the west, and to this inscribing must there be put an end; for I Kan-Uk am weary, and would have sleep.

22. Also, at the rising of the sun, shall I strike my tent; and the caravan with which I do travel, doth move to a far country.

23. Peradventure, I may there see things even more wonderful than those I have herein recorded.

24. And if so be, verily shall ye hear of them.

25. But if ye hear not again from me, keep ye this my Chronicle; and think ever

of me with a light heart, and a smiling countenance; even as I do, my brothers, of ye.

(THE END)

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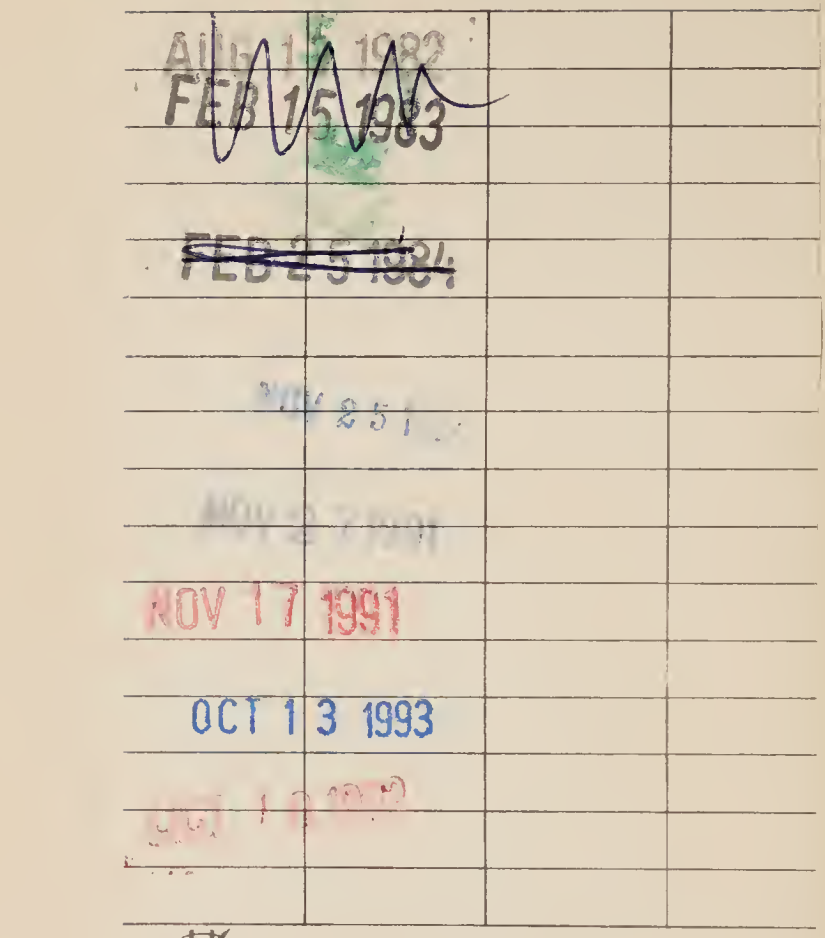

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